

Amendments to the Claims

Please **amend claims 1, 2, 8 and 31** as follows. This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of the claims in this application.

1. (Currently amended) A modular shade system comprising:

a support structure defining a first area having a length and a width;

a planar array of modular panels, having upper and lower surfaces, mounted to and supported by the support structure, said modular panels covering at least about 80% of the first area, the upper surfaces of the modular panels being exposed surfaces;

the modular panels comprising PV panels acting as a source of electricity and supplemental panels; and

the supplemental panels being other than PV panels ~~to provide a feature other than electricity generation~~ and optionally providing shading.

2. (Currently amended) The system according to claim 1 wherein the support structure comprises:

a series of generally parallel purlins supporting the modular panels;

beams located beneath said purlins and oriented transversely to said purlins, said purlins secured to and supported by the beams; and

a generally vertical column secured to and supporting each of said beams.

3. (original) The system according to claim 1 wherein the supplemental panels comprise light-transmissive panels and wherein light-transmissive panels cover about 0 to 50% of the first area.

4. (original) The system according to claim 1 wherein the supplemental panels comprise light-transmissive panels and wherein light-transmissive panels cover about 5 to 30% of the first area.

5. (original) The system according to claim 1 wherein the supplemental panels comprise light-transmissive panels and wherein the light-transmissive panels are placed adjacent to one another along a path parallel to the length.

6. (Previously presented) The shading system according to claim 1 wherein the PV panels comprise light-transmissive PV panels.

7. (original) The system according to claim 1 wherein the supplemental panels comprise light-transmissive panels and wherein the PV panels and light-transmissive panels cover at least about 90% of the first area.

8. (Currently amended) The system according to claim 1 further comprising protective panels mounted to the shading system subassembly opposite, spaced apart from and covering substantially the entire lower surfaces of the PV modules, the protective panels comprising at least one of a wire mesh and a sheet of material.

9. (Previously presented) The system according to claim 8 wherein the protective panels comprise at least one of sheet metal, perforated sheet metal, plastic, perforated plastic, cement board, perforated cement board, and phosphorescent material.

10. (original) The system according to claim 8 wherein the PV modules and the protective panels are constructed to permit some light to pass therethrough.

11. (Previously presented) The system according to claim 8 wherein the protective panels have a lower protective panel surface, at least substantially the entire lower protective panel surface being convex.

12. (original) The system according to claim 8 wherein the protective panels are perforated.

13. (original) The system according to claim 8 wherein the PV modules cover at least about 90% of the first area.

14. (original) The system according to claim 1 wherein the supplemental panels comprise phosphorescent panels to provide passive nighttime illumination beneath support structure.

15. (original) The system according to claim 1 wherein the supplemental panels comprise planter panels for planting of plants.

16-30. (Canceled)

31. (Currently amended) A photovoltaic assembly comprising:
a mounting structure;
a PV module, having upper and lower surfaces, supported by the mounting structure; and
a protective panel mounted to at least one of the mounting structure and the PV module
opposite, spaced apart from and covering substantially the entire the lower surface of the PV
module, the protective panel comprising at least one of a wire mesh and a sheet of material..

32. (Previously presented) The system according to claim 31 wherein the protective panel comprises at least one of sheet metal, perforated sheet metal, plastic, perforated plastic, cement board, perforated cement board, and phosphorescent material.

33. (original) The system according to claim 31 wherein the PV module and the protective panel are constructed to permit some light to pass therethrough.

34. (Previously presented) The system according to claim 31 wherein the protective panel has a lower protective panel surface, at least substantially the entire lower protective panel surface being convex.

35. (original) The system according to claim 31 wherein the protective panel is perforated.